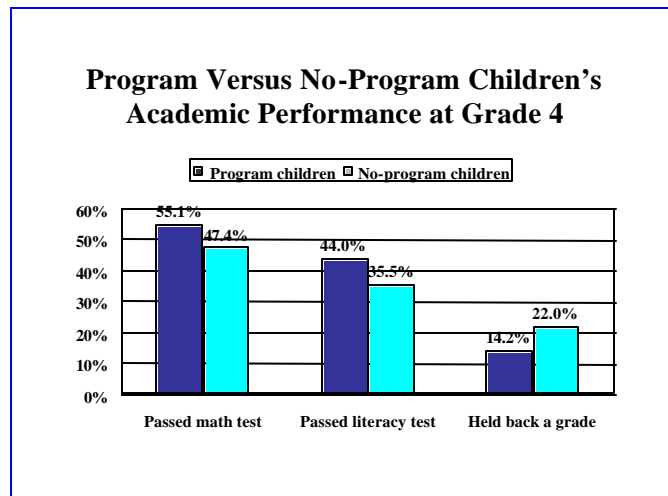


State Preschool Graduates Do Better in School Five Years Later

Children who participated in the Michigan School Readiness Program, Michigan's preschool program for "at risk" 4-year-olds are better prepared for school and do better in school five years later. These findings come from the latest evaluation of the program conducted by the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation of Ypsilanti, Michigan, for the Michigan State Board of Education. This preschool program, which began in 1985, serves 26,000 children a year in 456 school districts and 65 community agencies, who qualify for

experience. Applying these rates across the state, each year this program prevents an estimated 1,700 Michigan children from having to repeat a grade, saving the state an estimated \$11 million annually by this effect alone.

For five years, the evaluation has followed 596 children in the 1995-96 class of children at sites around Michigan. The evaluation sites were in and around Detroit, Grand Rapids, Grayling, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, and Port Huron. The evaluation tracked



it by having two risk factors, such as low income and living in a single-parent family. Each class has a certified teacher and a trained assistant teacher to serve no more than 16 children. Observers give the classes high quality ratings, averaging 4.4 on a 5-point scale.

The evaluation followed a sample of these children through fourth grade. Five years after the preschool program, 14 percent of the participants had repeated a grade, as compared to 22 percent of their non-participating classmates of similar background with little or no preschool program

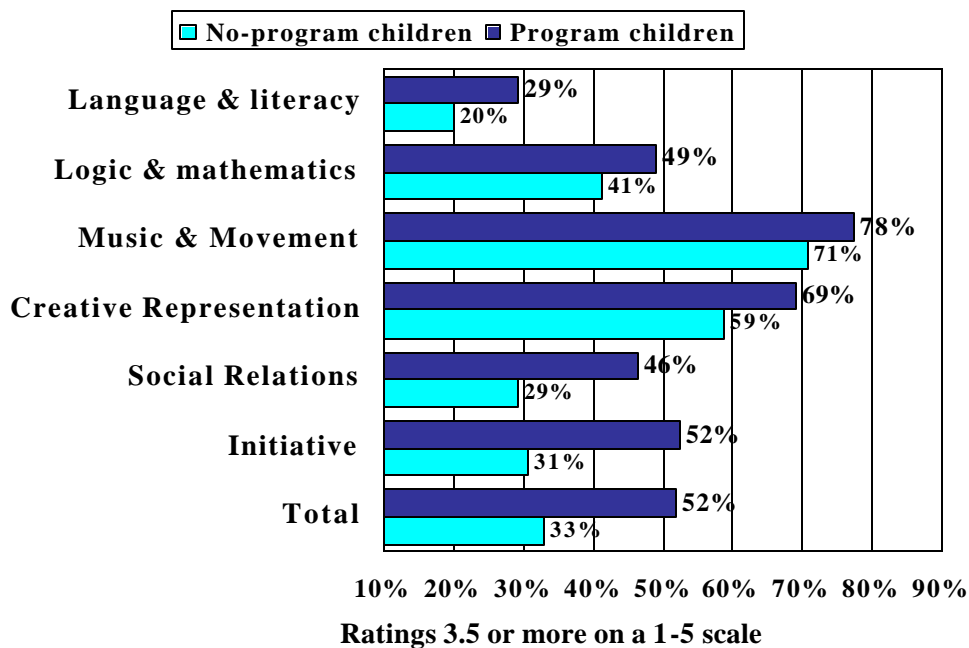
338 children who had participated in the Michigan School Readiness Program and 258 non-participating comparison children who were like the program children in age and socioeconomic status.

From kindergarten through fourth grade, elementary school teachers rated the children who had attended the preschool program significantly more academically ready for school than their no-program classmates – more interested in school; more likely to take initiative, have good attendance, and retain learning; stronger in reading, mathematics, thinking, problem solving, and working with others.

Back when these children entered kindergarten, observers rated the preschool program graduates significantly better than their no-program classmates in language and literacy, creative representation,

High/Scope® Educational Research Foundation is an independent nonprofit organization founded in 1970 in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Its mission is to seek, apply, and disseminate knowledge about education

Kindergarten Child Observation Ratings



music and movement, initiative, and social relations. As compared to no-program parents, program parents became significantly more involved in their children's school activities and talked with elementary school teachers more.

and human development, especially as it relates to its educational approach based on active, participatory learning.

Because the schools and agencies that provide the program are at capacity, across the state the program lacks classroom space and funding for 16,000 eligible children a year.

The full report of this evaluation can be accessed at the High/Scope Web site at <http://www.highscope.org>.